

Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 04853.0121

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

National Stage of International)
Application No. PCT/JP2003/008217)
under 35 U.S.C. 371 of:)
Katsuhisa MITSUHASHI et al.) Group Art Unit:
Application No.: Not Yet Assigned) Examiner:
Filed: December 27, 2004)
For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING)
LACTONE)
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the Examiner's attention the documents listed on attached Form PTO/SB/08 and cited in the international search report. Copies of the listed documents are attached with the exception of US Patent 4,950,607 which is a family member of EP 356291 A1. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents listed on attached Form PTO/SB/08 and indicate that they were considered by making an appropriate notation on this form.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the above-referenced application.

The following are listed on the accompanying PTO/SB/08 and are in a non-English language:

1. Japanese Patent Publication No.: 4-108782 A - The relevance of this document is discussed at page 3 of the specification of the present application. An English language abstract of this document is enclosed.
2. JP 61-195693 A
3. JP 60-66991 A
4. EP 356291 A1 - a copy of an English-language counterpart, U.S. Patent No. 4,950,607, is cited.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or the translation of non-English documents, enclosed is an English-language international search report from the Japanese Patent Office in the PCT international application, from which this national phase U.S. application is derived, citing these documents and setting forth the relevance thereof. Also, an English language abstract of each document is enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take

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appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 27, 2004

By: 
Ernest F Chapman
Reg. No. 25,961

Enclosures
EFC//FPD/mld

IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)				Application Number	10/519212
				Filing Date	December 27, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Katsuhisa MITSUHASHI et al.
				Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	04853.0121

U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-4,950,607	08-21-1990	Cardillo et al.	

Note: Copies of the U.S. Patent Documents are not Required in IDS filed after October 21, 2004

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		WO 83/01072 A1	03-31-1983	FRITZSCHE DODGE & OLCOTT INC.		
		EP 371568 A1	06-06-1990	UNILEVER NV		
		JP 61-195693 A	08-29-1986	KANEBO, LTD.		Abstract only
		JP 60-66991 A	04-17-1985	KANEBO, LTD.		Abstract only
		EP 356291 A1	02-28-1990	Cardillo et al.		NO
		EP 258993 A2	03-09-1988	UNILEVER PLC		
		JP 4-108782 A	04-09-1992	Takasago International Corp.		Abstract only

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.